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The Bashful Man

By M. QUAD

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If Moses Taylor, son of a farmer and twenty-three years old when the incidents about to be related occurred, had been the son of a recluse living in the woods one would not have been surprised to find him a bit bashful. As it was, his bashfulness was known and talked about by half the country. Up to the age of fourteen Moses was cheeky instead of bashful. He was in love with three different girls. He was in for spelling schools, husking bees, apple parings, circuses and camp meetings, and he was always sent to the village to do the trading. He was in his element when he could chin with a tin peddler or lightning rod man. Then all of a sudden the change came. He went to bed his old self and woke up somebody else. He was so bashful that he could hardly be got to the breakfast table to eat with the family. He was hurried and embarrassed and blushing, and when he had escaped from the table after eating half a meal his mother said to the father:

"Jacob, you hitch up and drive to the village after Dr. Williams."
"But why, ma?" he asked.
"Because he's needed here. I'm afraid Moses is in for it."
The doctor arrived. His pulse was counted, his tongue examined and his eyes rolled up.
"Um," said the medical man.
"Goin' to be fever, doctor?"
"Don't think so."
"Is it cancer?"
"No."
"Goin' crazy?"
"The boy is all right, only he has turned bashful all at once."

Within three months the family was coaxing their best for Moses to become impudent again, but all their efforts were failures. The horsewhip would have checked his impudence somewhat, but what are you going to do with a boy that rushes upstairs and crawls under a bed every time a neighbor calls to borrow a drawing of tea? It got to be more than a nuisance, and after it had lasted a year without prospect of a change Dr. Williams was sent for again. Moses started for the woods, but was headed off and tied to a chair.

The conclusion that Dr. Williams arrived at after an hour of poking around was that some sudden shock might scatter the boy's bashfulness and restore his youthful cheek. Several sorts of shocks were suggested, but the rain barrel shock was the one tried. The month was November, and the barrel under the kitchen eaves was full of cold water. Without knowing what was coming young Moses was taken out and dumped in. It was hoped that he would kick and yell and fight, but he did nothing but sink bashfully to the bottom of the barrel and let them haul him out by the hair before he was quite drowned. The disgusted doctor said there was nothing more to be done but wait and see if the boy would outgrow his ailment.

Moses got no worse and no better. He just continued to be the champion bashful young man of the United States. A room was made for him in the barn, and things were so managed that he seldom came in contact with any one outside the family. Moses had reached the age of twenty-two and was still as bad as a fool and as burdensome as a lumie, when an old woman who had heard of his case journeyed 100 miles to see him. She didn't get to see him personally, but the mother told her all about it.

If Moses had been bashful about women or about any other one thing it would have been easy to diagnose his case, but he would dodge a row as quick as a woman. After the old woman had been at the house three days, gathering all the particulars she could, she was ready with a suggestion. It was summer then. It was known that every night before going to bed Moses went down to a creek he had dammed up and took a swim and was an hour about it. This incident was the basis of the suggestion. On a particular night as the watchers saw him leave the barn others slipped in and spread a layer of bullhustles over the sheets and a layer of nettles over that. Then a generous supply of both products were scattered over the floor of the barn, and the people cleared out and left a free road.

"The doctor was right about giving him a shock," said the old woman, "but it wasn't the right sort and didn't last long enough. Nettles and bullhustles will do the trick."

Moses uttered a yell and gave a jump almost as soon as he entered the barn, then more yells and more jumps as he made his way to his bed, then yells and whoops and shouts and cuss words as he bounced down on the nettles and thistles as he rolled around.

"It has worked!" whispered the old woman, with a sigh of relief.

So it had. When Moses cried out for help his bashfulness was gone, never to return. They estimated that he had 1,000,000 stings and that 2,000,000 thistles had entered his anatomy and that during the week the thistles and nettles stung the young man under 100,000 cuss words and worked up a ton of impudence. When he could move around again he wore his hat on his ear, spat over his shoulder and was engaged to a widow within six weeks. Doctors sometimes make mistakes, but old women never do. There is something about nettles and bull thistles that touches the spot.

MOVEMENTS OF MAIL STEAMERS

VESSELS TO ARRIVE

Wednesday, December 11
Salina Cruz, via San Francisco and Sound ports—Alaskan, A. H. S. S. Newcastle, N. S. W. — Saint Kilda, Br. stmr.

Thursday, December 12
San Francisco—Thomas, U. S. A. T. Friday, December 13
San Francisco—Nippon Maru Jap stmr.

Central and South American ports—Kiyo Maru, Jap. stmr.

Saturday, December 14
Hilo via way ports—Mauna Kea, stmr.

Sunday, December 15
Maui, Molokai and Lanai ports—Likelike, stmr.

Kauai ports—Kinan, stmr.

Wednesday, December 18
San Francisco—Lurline, M. N. S. S. Thursday, December 19
San Francisco—Tenyo Maru, Jap. stmr.

Sunday, December 22
Hongkong via Japan ports—Shinyo Maru, Jap. stmr.

VESSELS TO DEPART

Wednesday, December 11
San Francisco—Honolulu, M. N. S. S. 6 p. m.

Thursday, December 12
Kauai ports—W. G. Hall, stmr., 5 p. m.

Makatea—Promise, Nor. stmr.

Friday, December 13
Manila via Guam—Thomas, U. S. A. T.

Hongkong via Japan ports—Nippon Maru, Jap. stmr.

Kona and Kau ports—Kilauea, stmr., noon.

Maui and Hawaii ports—Claudine, stmr., 5 p. m.

Saturday, December 14
Hongkong via Japan ports—Kiyo Maru, Jap. stmr.

Hilo direct—Mauna Kea, stmr., 4 p. m.

Monday, December 16
Kauai ports—Noeau, stmr., 5 p. m.

Thursday, December 19
Hongkong via Japan ports—Tenyo Maru, Jap. stmr.

Sunday, December 22
San Francisco—Shinyo Maru, Jap. stmr.

Monday, December 23
Sydney via Pago Pago—Sonoma, O. S. S.

Tuesday, December 24
San Francisco—Siberia, P. M. S. S. San Francisco—Lurline, M. N. S. S. Friday, December 27
San Francisco—Ventura, O. S. S. Saturday, December 28
Hongkong via Japan ports—Persia, P. M. S. S.

MAILS

Mails are due from the following points as follows:
San Francisco—Transport, Dec. 12.
Victoria—Zealandia, Jan. 1.
Colonies—Ventura, Dec. 22.
Yokohama—Shinyo Maru, Dec. 22.
Mails will depart for the following points as follows:
Yokohama—Nippon Maru, Dec. 13.
Vancouver—Marama, Dec. 31.
Colonies—Sonoma, Dec. 23.
San Francisco—Honolulu, Dec. 11.

TRANSPORT SERVICE

Logan sailed from Honolulu for San Francisco, Dec. 5.
Sherman, from Honolulu for Guam and Manila, sailed Nov. 14.
Warren, stationed at the Philippines. Thomas, from San Francisco for Honolulu, sailed Dec. 5.
Dix, from Honolulu for Manila, sailed Dec. 8.

PASSENGERS BOOKED

Per str. Kinan, for Kauai ports, December 10.—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Myers Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Wilcox, W. Anderson, W. T. Frost, W. H. Rice, Br. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox and servant, H. Glass, E. A. Alexander, Miss Grace Pullar, Mrs. W. Pullar, C. Wilcox, Miss Frances Pullar, F. F. Lacks, Wong Wa, M. Matsuzawa, Rev. T. Okumura.

Per str. Likelike, for Maui and Molokai ports, Dec. 10.—Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Brown, A. Meyer, H. R. Hitchcock, W. M. Vincent.
Per str. Mauna Kea, for Hilo December 11.—Hang Chack, Miss R. Wallace, Mam' Parker Jr., Mrs. C. W. North, Master K. North, Master A. North, A. Morrison, J. D. Tacker, A. Abrams, Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Bond, W. L. Steward, Miss Mary Lindsay, H. H. Renton, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Snow and servant, Mrs. Mittu, Wm. Yeh Kwai Fong, Mrs. L. Wah, Mrs. Pan Kau, Mrs. Oii, Mrs. Wails, Jas. T. Taylor, W. T. Robinson, C. A. Doyle, F. W. Macfarlane, C. C. Conrad, N. Chong, Miss M. Forrest, Lile Holmes, J. Male, Mr. and Mrs. Watt, Mrs. M. Forrest, J. Hurd, A. F. Marsile, J. H. Maley, P. W. Bluet and friend, Miss Bluet, Miss Wood and maid, L. M. Harrison, E. Hutchinson, S. T. Carr, T. J. McGrath, D. W. Driscoll, S. M. Kanakani, Geo. F. Wilkinson, Geo. T. Ruddock, L. T. Blanding, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Blaney, D. W. Doyle, C. A. Hanneberg, G. Giacometti, Master Jack L. Klengel, Mrs. H. A. Klengel, Consul General H. Eitaki, W. L. Howe, Leon A. Quonson, M. Kurokawa.

PASSENGERS EXPECTED

Per T. K. K. Nippon Maru from San Francisco and due at Honolulu Dec. 13.—For Yokohama—Tanque K. Asa, K. S. Attie, F. D. Bryant, R. H. Cochran, Mrs. J. Cook, Rev. Mr. Curtis, J. A. Kurea, S. Hullshoff, Mrs. A. Hullshoff, T. Kemsten, Mrs. H. Morrison, Mr. Watanabe, Lieut. C. Yamada, For Shanghai—Dr. M. G. Kirby Gomes, Mrs. S. C. Kirby Gomes, Mrs. E. Kirby Gomes, Miss Silib Kirby Gomes, H. R. Wilson.

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FOR THE ORIENT
S. S. Nippon Maru Dec. 13
S. S. Tenyo Maru Dec. 19

FOR SAN FRANCISCO
S. S. Shinyo Maru Dec. 17
S. S. Chiyo Maru Jan. 10

* Calls at Manila, omitting call at Shanghai.

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S. S. Lurline Dec. 24
S. S. Wilhelmina Jan. 1
S. S. Honolulu Jan. 7

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S. S. Makura Jan. 28
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